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10 April 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chiefs, FBIS Field Bureaus

FROM : Chief, FBIS

SUBJECT : Letter of Instruction - Part I

GENERAL

1. On the basis of material supplied by the Panama cruising post, it has been determined that a significant improvement in Latin American coverage can be achieved by the permanent assignment of a Spanish monitor to the post. It is planned that [] of the West Coast Bureau will proceed to Panama in June. STAT

2. Another heavy snowfall on 19 and 20 March resulted in extensive damage to the antenna field at the East Coast Bureau due to snow on the antenna curtains. Only three of 14 Rhombic antennas were undamaged. Repair operations are under way.

3. A number of wire service innovations were inaugurated during March:

- a. The consumer B-Wire was renamed the "FBIS Wire Service."
- b. Short descriptive topical heads appearing above the logograph are now used to introduce many wire items.
- c. The word "bulletin" highlights items of unusual interest.
- d. "FBIS Wire Highlights" are placed on the wire at the end of each editorial shift.

4. The following changes were introduced in the Daily Report format:

- a. All Reports and Supplements are reproduced under pre-printed covers.
- b. The daily "Pink Sheet" is also reproduced under a pre-printed block heading.
- c. The reverse side of the Daily Report cover now contains a preprinted description of the report format.
- d. A change in the copyright warning included on the new covers reflects a basic change in approach to the "voice" and "press" segments of the book. In order to permit wider distribution of items printed on OFFICIAL USE ONLY pages for purely technical reasons, where no copyright or other restrictions need limit distribution, such items now bear the notation "UNCLASSIFIED" after the item identification.

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EDITORIAL BRANCH COMMENT

1. General

a. Supplements to the Daily Report:

(1) 3 March -- Farm Policy Theses to be Presented to the USSR Supreme Soviet by N. S. Khrushchev

(2) 11 March -- World Radio and Press Comment on the Indonesian Crisis

(3) 17 March -- N.S. Khrushchev's Preelection Speech to his Kalinin Constituents, March 14, 1958

(4) 18 March -- A. I. Mikoyan's Preelection Speech to his Stalin Rayon Constituents in Yerevan, March 11, 1958

(5) 18 March -- Josip Broz-Tito's Election Speech to his Belgrade Constituents, March 16, 1958

(6) 25 March -- World Radio and Press Comment on the Indonesian Crisis (No. 2)

(7) 28 March -- N.S. Khrushchev's Farm Policy Speech to the USSR Supreme Soviet, March 27, 1958

(8) 31 March -- USSR Foreign Minister Gromyko's Statement to Supreme Soviet on Suspension of Nuclear Tests.

b. A few embarrassing errors in recent months suggest the need for a reminder that items texted from English-language transmissions should have the same close scrutiny given to translated materials to insure that they are consistent and logical and contain no glaring examples of unidiomatic English. In several instances, it was necessary to solicit corrections to items broadcast in English which contained elements that should have immediately alerted the editor and occasioned a careful rehearing of the belts, a check of subsequent transmissions and prompt filing of corrections.

c. Unless such texts are specifically solicited by Headquarters it is not necessary to file from noncommunist sources speeches made by Western representatives at conferences at which the United States is represented. For example, one bureau recently devoted considerable time to textung the speeches of Secretary of State Dulles and British Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd. Neither of these was used. Where exceptional circumstances lead the bureau to believe a particular pronouncement may be of special interest to headquarters editors, a priority or higher-precedence cue should be filed.

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d. One of the principal consumers of the economic abstracts, while deeply appreciative of the abstracts in their present form, is seriously concerned at the number of inaccuracies and examples of careless editing he reportedly finds, especially in materials from Far East transmitters. Bureaus are reminded that the abstracts are by no means inferior in value to other items processed by them and merit at least as careful editing as that accorded materials intended for the Daily Report, the more so in that they are not subject to recheck by report editors before re-production and dissemination.

e. With the new, more rapid system of reproducing and distributing economic abstracts, it is suggested that Communist Chinese and North Korean materials devoted primarily to statistics of afforestation, water conservancy and power, mining and oil wells, even up through the provincial level, now processed as briefs would be preferable as economic abstracts.

f. Such editorial notations as "station commentary," "anonymous commentary," etc. inserted on a new line immediately following the logograph are unnecessary. The simple designation "commentary" is sufficient.

g. Hyphenization at the end of teletyped lines should be kept at an absolute minimum, since words thus fragmented must be rewritten for copy prepared for the Daily Report.

2. Mediterranean Bureau

a. The very informative FYI on regional radio treatment of revisionism, filed only to RPB, was published in the February 27 Daily Report and was of great interest to our consumers. The Bureau is again reminded that items of general interest should not be filed solely to RPB.

b. The proper logograph is:

Beirut, ANA, Radioteletype in Arabic to the Near East

3. Austrian Bureau

Bureau translators should seek consistency and accuracy in their renderings of communist stereotypes, and experienced translators and editors should instruct newcomers concerning generally accepted formulations. The Bureau's texts of the recent electoral campaign speeches contained some odd and unaccepted translations of communist political and ideological cliches..

4. Saigon Bureau

a. The Bureau's recent improvement of the Saigon-Cholon press review by the exclusion of all but editorial comment is noted with satisfaction. One valuable feature of the former press reviews which should be reinstituted, if possible, was the practice of introducing each of the two basic parts of the review

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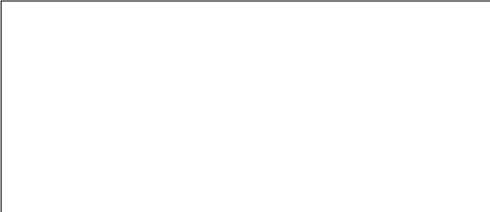
(the one devoted to Vietnamese-language papers, the other to the Chinese-language press) with a sentence or two giving the predominating editorial theme for the day. The ways in which the individual journals either support or depart from this theme can then be brought out in the paragraphs that follow. The extent to which the press gives coverage to major international developments should also be included in these generalizations.

b. The extensive briefings of suitable South Vietnam news items is also appreciated. In this connection it should be pointed out that major news items, such as the March 8 BUOI SANG report on the alleged sale of French destroyers to the Sumatran rebels, should be given fuller treatment and filed as separate items, thus insuring the immediate attention of the Wire and the Daily Report.

FIELD SUPPORT OF THE RADIO PROPAGANDA BRANCH

1. The extensive data collated in the field on nominations of CPSU Central Committee Presidium members to the USSR Supreme Soviet were used as the basis for a report pointing up the extent of the new glorification of Khrushchev. Material from the London and Austrian Bureaus formed the basis for reports on the increased Soviet bloc propaganda campaign against revisionism and on bloc and Yugoslav reaction to Khrushchev's plan for reorganizing machine-tractor stations.

2. Inconsistencies in the labeling of items on the Peking commentary lists have caused some recent difficulties. One broadcast commentary, for example, was labeled a "PEOPLE'S DAILY article". Another on the following day was labeled "editorial" and called a repeat of the article. If, in such instances, the items are in fact identical but described differently by the Peking radio itself in two separate broadcasts, that fact should be noted. If they are clearly different items, the second should not be tagged "repeat" merely because the subject is the same or title similar.


ROGER G. SEELY

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